

Please accept the following as my testimony for the Committee on Children:

30 months, numerous workers, a dozen home visits, case shuffling from Norwich to Hartford (remember the blitz) back to Norwich... our experience with DCF has been one of, "Where is the common sense?" As a pre-adoptive family having been originally licensed 30 months ago, our household has been waiting to help children in need of forever families. Time and time again our home study was passed by, chosen second or third for a child who had come to be teamed for a forever family. Why? Simply because our home runs well; very well; and has **five** children already living in it (4 biologically ours, one private adoptionly ours). Do we have room? Yes. Do we have resources? Yes. Do we have love and time? Yes. Are we licensed? Yes. DCF teaming members select us second because they can't fathom a home with that many children running well. After 30 months waiting to be placed with a child (and successfully performing respite care for numerous foster children through DCF) we have officially switched our home study to a foster home, hoping this will enable us to help more children. Our study is now awaiting signature by Commissioner Katz; needing to have had a clinical review (more state funding being spent) to have the overcapacity (more than 5 children in home) waiver. Why? The tragedy in Glastonbury where two men adopted ten boys and molested two of them caused a knee-jerk reaction and once again our family is jumping through hoops; knocking down doors; trying to help children.

As we work together to keep children in safe and loving environments, I urge the Committee on Children to guide DCF in using common sense in selecting families for adoption as well as licensing families for foster care.

I strongly recommend adopting the Foster Parent bill of rights.

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